

Adventure to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana

By Jerry and Mary Boyle

We've attached a link to a few favorite photos from our recent Africa Safari adventure. We came home with several thousand pictures but winnowed them down to just a few of our favorites to share with you.

On May 14, 2019, we flew to Cape Town, South Africa, and, for the first 3 nights, stayed at the stunning Lanzerac Hotel and Spa on the outskirts of Cape Town. It's nestled in the prime wine country of the Stellenbosch Valley – vineyards everywhere. Lanzerac dates from the 1600s and is a working vineyard, producing fine wines. During our time there, we visited and toured a number of the wineries in the area. However, our first stop after checking in was the Spa – where we both were treated to 2 hours of pampering. Great way to recover from over 30 hours of flying to get there!



We joined our group of 17 other adventurers on the fourth day when we flew to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and our 2-night stay at the Matetsi River Lodge, nestled along the Zambezi River. Game drives and a trip



to Victoria Falls got us off to a great start. The remainder of our Africa trip was spent in nearby Botswana, where we stayed in three deluxe camps. The first was the Belmond Savute Elephant Lodge where elephants enjoyed the huge waterhole just in front of the lodge and our tent-cabin. Other animals also visited the waterhole.

From Savute, we flew by bush plane to our next camp – Xaranna Okavango Delta Camp for 3 nights. The highlight here was a 30-minute helicopter flight over the Okavango Delta! So fun – a first for both of us. This four-person copter (including the pilot) had both side doors off, so we experienced the wind and views up-close and personal. Hippos cooling in the Delta waters; lots of game-free ranging just below us, including families of elephants. Spectacular!



Our final camp was the beautiful Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge. Walls of screens surrounded our deluxe cabin, so we could experience this stunning area from every room. Free-roaming elephants thought our plunge pool was a water bowl! Of course, we enjoyed this from inside our room. None of the camps are fenced, so game can roam freely. No worries walking around camps in the daytime; but at night or early morning, we always had to have a camp security ranger escort us. Flashlights are a must for everyone.



Safari trips are not for the faint-hearted – you're up at 5:30 a.m. every day and out on the first game drive by 6:30 – bundled up because it's very chilly in the open trucks. Down jackets, blankets, and hot-water bottles make you cozy. As soon as the sun is fully up, you can start shedding layers. You're usually back in camp by 11:00 and have lunch and rest time until 3:30 when you go out on the evening game drive that ends after dark – about 7:00.



Dinner in camp and usually we're all tucked back into bed by 9-10 p.m. You don't want to miss any of the drives because every drive is an adventure – following game tracks and discovering these magnificent

animals and birds. You often go off-road following the clues – bouncing through brush and around trees. Thankfully, the trucks are very comfortable and lots of places to hang onto as you jounce along.



We began our flights home on May 30 from the Sandibe airstrip via Johannesburg to Frankfurt and then Los Angeles – about 35 hours of travel, getting us back to Los Angeles on Friday, May 31, early afternoon. Fantastic trip filled with countless memories. Just click the attached link to view about 40 of our favorite pictures.

Here is a link to our photos:

<https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-SQLstp>